Continental legal philosophies upon which the nineteenth-century codifications depended. The great jurists of the seventeenth century—Grotius on the Continent, Selden in England—were positively soaked in Hebraic lore—Biblical, Rabbinic and contemporary—traces of which may be discerned throughout their writings.

The God of Israel is the God of Justice: and it is not remarkable that, since the age of emancipation began, the profession of law has exercised a powerful attraction on the Jewish mind. There can be no doubt as to the importance of the part played by Jewish lawyers in modern jurisprudence. Even before the period of emancipation, a few eminent legalists of Jewish extraction emerged, such as the Austrian humanitarian, Joseph von Sonnenfels, who was responsible for the abolition of torture in Austria *(infra,* p. 298). The nineteenth century saw the beginning of a series of notable Jewish jurists and advocates in every country. Pre-eminent in England, above all, was Sir George Jessel, one of the great law-making judges of his time, and generally recognised to be the founder of the Court of Chancery as it exists to-day. His judgements were models of clarity and learning, and were seldom reversed on appeal. Jessel was in his prime when Judah Philip Benjamin, the eminent Southern statesman ("the Brains of the Confederacy", he was called), found refuge in England on the conclusion of the American Civil War. The latter was admitted to the Bar and for some years enjoyed a practice which even to-day has seldom been surpassed. While waiting to be called, he wrote his *Law*

of the Sale of Personal Property, which has remained a classic to the present day. It is believed that his elevation to the Bench —an honour for which he was more than qualified—was prevented only by deference to American public opinion.

Among the other eminent English lawyers who were of Jewish extraction may be mentioned Lord Justice Ludlow during the last century and Lord Justice Slesser to-day, both of Jewish descent; and Sir Archibald Levin